

Luxury Coach Services from IGI Airport to Amritsar

552. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that for plying inter-State luxury coach services from IGI Airport to Amritsar and *vice-versa*, the tender was awarded to the highest bidder last year overlooking the claim of lower bidders;
- (b) whether it resulted in heavy revenue loss to Government, if so, the amount of loss thereof;
- (c) what action Government have taken or propose to take against the guilty officials; and
- (d) whether any action is contemplated to allow lower bidders to ply the coach services and stop the higher bidder from doing so?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a regular case in the matter on 15.1.2001 and are conducting investigations.

Flights of International Airlines to Hyderabad

553. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several international airlines like British Airways, Singapore Airlines and Emirates Airlines propose to operate flights to Hyderabad;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not clearing the proposals by the Ministry; and
- (c) by when the final decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Emirates Airlines has been recently granted permission to operate international services to/from Hyderabad. The request of Singapore Airlines for Hyderabad as a point of call will be discussed during the next round of bilateral air services consultations. No request has been received from British Airways for operating

services to/from Hyderabad after it has been declared as international airport.

Introduction of State Airports for International Air Services

554. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of International Air Services were introduced from State Airports recently;
- (b) if so, what is the action plan chalked out therefor; and
- (c) the air routes selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) International air services are presently available from the following airports, which are not classified as international airports;

- (i) Calicut (Kerala) to points in gulf
- (ii) Trichinapalli (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah
- (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah
- (iv) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) to Sharjah
- (v) Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to Kathmandu
- (vi) Patna (Bihar) to Kathmandu.

Safety of Air Fields at Jammu and Srinagar

555. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether no steps have been taken to ensure the safety of air fields at Jammu and Srinagar as alleged by the Indian Commercial Pilots Association;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for declaring Jammu and Kashmir as no fly zone by the Indian Airlines Pilots Union w.e.f. 26th January, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The navigation/landings aids available at Jammu and Srinagar, including sterilisation of approach funnel, are sufficient for safe operation of flights.